



# 10 Steps to Collaborating with Pediatric Medical Providers

## Step 1

Invite a pediatrician or family practice physician to lunch to discuss how you might collaborate to build an interdisciplinary approach to better health for the patients who frequent one or both of your offices. Discuss the patient's seen and what their oral health needs are.

## Step 2

Discuss patients ages newborn to five, who have not yet seen a dentist. Discover if your medical colleague discusses oral health questions/issues with the child's parents or caregiver.



## Step 3

Introduce the medical provider to oral health resources, such as the [American Academy of Pediatrics' Chapter Advocacy Training on Oral Health](#) or the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Group on Oral Health [Smiles for Life oral health curriculum](#).

## Step 4

Discuss what it means to the oral health of a child to add a caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, placement of fluoride varnish as appropriate, and a referral to a dentist by one year of age are a routine part of a well-baby visit.

## Step 5

Check with the state/local dental society and/or American Academy of Pediatrics chapter to see where similar collaborative oral health programs are working.

## Step 6

Discuss successful programs that have demonstrated success in this area, such as North Carolina's ["Into the Mouth of Babes"](#) program.

## Step 7

Discuss how medical providers can be reimbursed for these services.

## Step 8

Offer to present an in-service to the physician's staff on the importance of good oral health for young children. Discuss why "baby teeth" are important and the dire consequences of rampant decay in youngsters.

## Step 9

Discuss how you might engage others within their community to support your efforts. These groups might include senior citizens, Early Head Start and Head Start teachers, and pediatric residents within the local hospital.

## Step 10

Share your success stories with the local dental and medical societies demonstrating the value of collaboration.

## Questions? Contact us!

### American Dental Association

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For more information about the American Dental Association's *Action for Dental Health: Dentists Making a Difference* campaign, visit [ADA.org/action](https://ada.org/action).